

Message Text

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SEC-01 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3857

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STATE PASS JUSTICE

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: CA, OVIP (BELL, GRIFFIN)
SUBJ: OTTAWA VISIT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE REMARKS
MADE BY CANADIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE RON BASFORD AND U.S.
ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL FOLLOWING THEIR MEETINGS
JUNE 17TH AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN
OTTAWA:

BASFORD: I'M VERY OPTIMISTIC. THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS
MEETING COMES FROM A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN
WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU
AND PRESIDENT CARTER WHERE THE TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT WE
SHOULD DISCUSS THE EXTRA-TERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF ANTI-
TRUST LAWS TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ENDEAVOR TO WORK OUT
WAYS BY WHICH THE IRRITANTS THAT WERE CAUSED IN THE
RELATIONSHIP COULD BE ELIMINATED; AND THE UNITED STATES
ADMINISTRATION REACTED TO THAT VERY SPEEDILY AND ASKED
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO COME TO CANADA AND WE'VE HAD A
VERY SUCCESSFUL MEETING HERE TODAY WHICH I THINK IS IN
THE SPIRIT OF THE RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED IN WASHINGTON
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IN FEBRUARY AND INDICATES TO ME IN WHICH WE AGREED TO
ESTABLISH A PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM UNDER WHICH
WE WOULD WORK TOWARDS - HAVE FIRST A PERMANENT CONSULTA-
TIVE MECHANISM TO DEAL WITH ANTI-TRUST MATTERS AND WORK
TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE RECOGNITION OF
EACH COUNTRY'S LAWS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN THE
NATIONAL INTERESTS OF EACH COUNTRY; AND MR. ABBOTT AND

HIS OFFICIALS WILL CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS AND REPORT BACK TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

Q.: CAN ANY IMMEDIATE ACCOMMODATION BE REACHED BETWEEN THE CANADIANS' DESIRE TO STOP THE U.S. INVESTIGATION CURRENTLY UNDERWAY...?

BELL: YOU MEAN THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION?

A. THE URANIUM.

BELL: THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION IS SOMETHING THAT IS OUTSIDE THE POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPT. UNDER THE AMERICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED US TO ASSIST TO ADVANCE THEIR POSITION TO THE CONGRESS THAT THE DOCUMENTS MIGHT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC AND WE DID THAT BUT CONGRESS MADE THE DOCUMENTS PUBLIC.

Q.: NO FURTHER ACTION CAN BE TAKEN?

BELL: NO.

BASFORD: IN TERMS OF THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-TRUST LAW, OBVIOUSLY IN URANIUM POLICY OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE AT THE MOMENT ENUNCIATED DIFFERENT POLICIES; BUT IN TERMS OF ANTI-TRUST AREA WE MADE ON REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENTS NOT BE REVEALED AND THEY ACTED ON THAT REQUEST; AND WE HAVE NO COMPLAINT IN THAT AREA.

Q.: WHEN YOU SAY PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM - DOES UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS MEAN FOREVER OR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU GET A DEFINITE AGREEMENT?

BASFORD: NO, THE ARRANGEMENT ARRIVED AT BY JUDGE BELL AND MR. ABBOTT AND OUR GOVERNMENT WAS CLEARLY THAT WE HAVE AGREED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM."

2. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE MINISTER BASFORD'S OFFICE FOLLOWING A PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL:

BELL: WELL I THINK THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE SHOULD ANSWER THAT QUESTION. WE HAD A FINE DAY - I WANT TO SAY THAT I THINK IT WAS VERY PRODUCTIVE.

BASFORD: WELL JUDGE BELL AND THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE HERE IN OTTAWA AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IN FEBRUARY

TO THE EFFECT THAT WE SHOULD EXAMINE THE APPLICATION
OF OUR VARIOUS LAWS AND THEIR EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICA-
TION INTO OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ANTI-TRUST
LAWS: AND AS A CANADIAN AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT WE
ARE IMMENSELY GRATEFUL FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES IN RESPONDING TO THAT DISCUSSION IN THE
WAY HE HAS IN COMING TO CANADA WITH HIS OFFICIALS TO
DISCUSS THIS. WE'VE HAD A FULL DAY OF DISCUSSION OF THE
ISSUES OF THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-TRUST LAWS IN OUR
COUNTRIES: AND WE HAVE AGREED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM OVER THE LONG TERM,

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AND FOR THE SHORT TERM THAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP WILL WORK
OUT A SET OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES UNDER WHICH OUR TWO
COUNTRIES CAN OPERATE TO AVOID TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE
THE ADVERSE REACTION AND THE ADVERSE INCIDENTS OF THE
APPLICATION OF OUR LAWS. OUR OBJECTS HERE ARE OBVIOUSLY
BECAUSE OF OUR GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES AND THE CLIMATE CREATED BY THE CARTER/TRUDEAU
TALKS ARE TO AVOID IRRITANTS THAT COMPLICATE OUR RELATION-
SHIPS.

Q.: MR. BELL DOES THIS HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE CURRENT
HOUSE INVESTIGATION?

BELL: NOT DIRECTLY. THE HOUSE UNDER OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT
IS INDEPENDENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE HAVE NO
CONTROL OVER THE HOUSE. THE HOUSE I
THINK GENERALLY SPEAKING LIKES TO MAINTAIN A GOOD
RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER NATIONS.

Q.: SO IN THE FUTURE ON ANY ANTI-TRUST PROBLEMS YOU MIGHT HAVE THIS CONSULTATIVE BODY WILL BE USED; THINGS WILL BE HANDLED DIFFERENTLY THAN THEY ARE HANDLED NOW?

BELL: WELL THE CONSULTATIVE BODY WILL BE BETWEEN OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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EXECUTIVE AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT; BUT I AM SURE THAT THE CONSULTATIVE BODY WOULD WANT TO SPEAK TO THE CONGRESS, AT LEAST TAKE UP MATTERS WITH THE CONGRESS AND WITH THE STATES WHENEVER NECESSARY. THEY WILL BE CALLED OUT TO THE GROUP'S ATTENTION BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q.: AS A RESULT OF YOUR MEETINGS HERE TODAY MIGHT THERE BE ANY CHANGES IN THE U.S. LAWS ACTUAL AMENDMENTS TO AVOID THEIR EXTRA-TERRITORIAL APPLICATION TOWARD CANADA OR OTHER NATIONS?

BELL: WE WOULDN'T KNOW THAT NOW. WE'LL EXPECT THAT WE CAN OPERATE WITHIN THE NORMAL FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW; AND IF LATER ON THERE NEEDED TO BE A CHANGE WE'D TALK ABOUT THAT THEN; BUT WE HAVEN'T REACHED THAT POINT YET. THAT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT PREMATURE TO THINK ABOUT THAT NOW.

Q. FROM YOUR MEETINGS HERE TODAY IS IT YOUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE'S A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHY ABOUT WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE MARKETING PRACTICE IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES?

BELL: NO, WE'RE NOT CRITICIZING EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE'RE TRYING TO LIVE TOGETHER AS NEIGHBORS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW; AND WE WANT TO REMOVE ALL THE IRRITANTS POSSIBLE; AND WE DON'T WANT TO PRESUME TO SAY WHAT SORT OF MARKETING PRACTICES YOU OUGHT TO HAVE IN CANADA.

Q: MR. SECRETARY HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED TODAY THAT COULD PREVENT IRRITANTS DEVELOPING OVER HOUSE INVESTIGATION AND IS THERE ANY WAY CANADIANS CAN GET THEIR POINT OF VIEW ACROSS TO THAT HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE?

BELL: WELL ONE WAY WOULD BE TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHICH YOU'VE ALREADY DONE; ANOTHER WAY WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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BE WHEN WE SET THIS CONSULTATIVE GROUP IN PLACE TO WORK THROUGH THEM. WE DIDN'T MEET TODAY JUST ABOUT THAT MATTER.

BASFORD: I THINK THAT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT WHILE ON URANIUM POLICY THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OF NATIONAL POLICY IN TERMS OF THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-TRUST LAWS, WE MADE A REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT CERTAIN CANADIAN DOCUMENTS AND THE UNITED STATES PASSED IT ON TO THE CONGRESS. SO IN TERMS OF THE APPLICATION OF ANTI-TRUST LAW THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. I JUST ADD AND OF JCOURSE OBVIOUSLY YOU ASKED THE QUESTION ABOUT COMMERCIAL POLICIES. WE HAVE AS TWO COUNTRIES GENERALLY AGREED FOR A GODD NUMBER OF YEARS AS TO COOPERATION IN ASSISTING EACH OTHER IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF EACHOTHER'S ANTI-TRUST LAWS IN TERMS OF CONSULATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. AT THIS POINT WHAT WE'RE ENDEAVORING TO DO IS TO ESTABLISH A EARLYWARNING SYSTEM BY WHICH THE NATIONAL POLICIES OF EACH GOVERNMENT CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

BELL: EXACTLY.

Q.: JUDGE BELL WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE DEPTH OF FEELING ABOUT THIS URANIUM ISSUE IN CANADA FROM WHAT YOU HEARD TODAY?

BELL: WELL WE HAVE A FULL AND VIGOROUS DEBATE IN THE UNITED STATES - AND I WITNESSED THAT THIS MORNING AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS ABOUT IT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. I WAS GLAD TO BE IN THE HOUSE WHEN THAT HAPPENED.

Q.: ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE ANY MESSAGE BACK TO CONGRESS?

BELL: NO, NO NOT PARTICULARLY. I THINK THAT I GOT A MESSAGE. ENDERS
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Message Attributes

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